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Mme. Chiang and the A-Bomb

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Mme. Chiang Kai-shek believes nuclear weapons should be used against the Chinese mainland if the fighting spreads in the Formosa Strait.

She also says that her government would not negotiate with Red China and would oppose demilitarization of the offshore islands because "you can negotiate on everything except principles."

The wife of Generalissimo Chiang, President of the Republic of China, was interviewed yesterday on the NBC-TV program "Meet the Press." Other questions and answers included:

Q.—But Asians have been quite resentful of the fact that nuclear weapons have been used only against Asians, haven't they? So we have heard.

A.—Well, I have not heard that. I think it's not a question of Asians or not; I think it's a question of necessity. I think war is a terrible thing but if war has to be war then the point is to get through with it as quickly as possible.

Q. Mme. Chiang, as you know, one of the most frequent questions being asked here today is this: Are Matsu and Quemoy worth the risk of a world war?

A. Well, I think the question should be whether the question of Matsu and Quemoy involve

principles, and whether principles are worth a world war.

Q. Well, do you see any possibility that the crisis in the Formosa Strait could be the start of a world war?

A. No, I do not think it could be the start of a world war if we all—that is, we in the free world—stand firm. In other words, giving up advantages, or losing advantages politically and militarily does not mean that there would be no war. On the contrary, it encourages war.

Q. Am I to understand by your answer to my first question that you don't think Matsu and Quemoy are essential to the defense of Formosa, you simply think the big issue is that of standing up to communists at this point?

A. No, that is not what I mean. What I mean is that it is not a question of Quemoy or Matsu or any place in the world. It's a question goes further than that. It's a question of principles, and principles are involved in Quemoy and Matsu.

Q. Madame Chiang, if we are to assume that war is to be avoided, presumably diplomacy is the avenue of escape. To a great many people demilitarization of the offshore islands seems an inevitable kind of compromise yet the Generalissimo's government has ruled that out. I believe to date. Would you comment on that, and his reasons?

A. Well, I believe that you can negotiate on everything except where principles are regarded. Now I do not see why Quemoy or Matsu should be demilitarized, because that is a sovereign right of the people of the Republic of China, and it is the Republic of China which should decide.

Q. Do you believe it is possible to achieve that renunciation of forces solely from the Chinese Communists without any com-

plementary agreement from the Nationalists?

A. I would like to ask this question: Who started the aggression? Who started firing? Who started the artillery fire against the islands? It wasn't the Republic of China, it was the Red regime, the Chinese Red regime, and therefore the cease fire is not a question involving both sides. It's just if they would cease fire, naturally there's no reason for us to fire.

Q. Madame Chiang, since Nationalist China is involved in the negotiations going on in Warsaw, do you think it would be useful for your government to be represented at those talks?

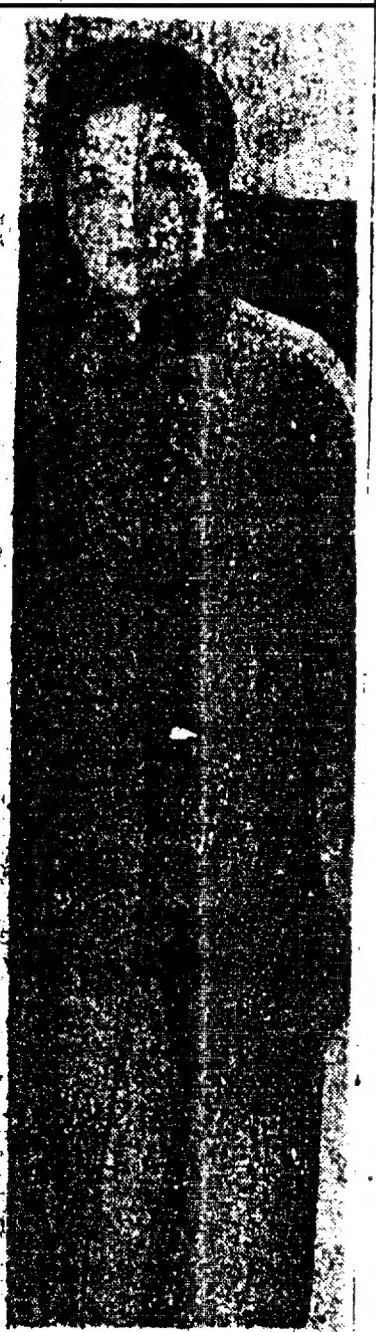
A. No, because we do not recognize the Communist regime on the mainland; we consider them bandits and we don't deal with them.

Q. Mme. Chiang, as you know, Secretary of State Dulles has said if the Warsaw talks do not succeed the U. S. will probably bring this whole matter to the UN. But I take it from what you have said that you would not be willing to have this whole question of your relationship to Red China discussed in the UN, in a public forum like the UN?

A. Not at all. That was not what I meant at all. Your question is I remember rightly was asking me about the admission of Red China into the UN, not whether the question should be discussed in the UN, and I think we all hope that the Warsaw talks would be a success.

But you would be willing to have the question discussed, the question of China, the question as discussed in the UN if the Warsaw talks fail?

A. Certainly, we have nothing to lose. We would not want to be



MME. CHIANG KAI-SHEK

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